

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9 as follow:

Even when channel noise does not completely prevent long message broadcast, the susceptibility of prior art fixed hopping pattern techniques to interference typically requires that a form of communications acknowledgement be implemented. An acknowledgement function would have the receiving handset(s) send ~~broadcast~~ back to the base some indication as to whether or not a long ~~broadcast~~ message was received without error. However, several disadvantages are inherent in the implementation of such an acknowledged communications protocol. The broadcasting device incurs added complexity to be able to also monitor one or more additional channels over which it would receive acknowledgement messaging from downlink recipients. Also, the downlink recipient devices over time consume substantial power by powering up their respective transmitters just to transmit an acknowledgement. In applications such as cordless telephones, where the broadcast recipients attempt to minimize power consumption due to limited battery capacity, the power consumption required to regularly transmit acknowledgements can comprise a substantial disadvantage.